

Hat-trick James shoots a victory for Wycombe

Sports Mail Special Report

DULWICH HAMLET 2 : WYCOMBE WAND 3

GRAHAM Adams, of Oxford United—appointed temporary coach to Wycombe Wanderers last night—was in the Dulwich Hamlet grandstand to watch the Wanderers' performance this afternoon, when they won away to Dulwich Hamlet in the Isthmian League.

Dulwich Hamlet: Beerling; Hammond, Merritt; Adams, Skipper, Smallman; Ryan, Sumpter, Manze, Wootton, Dew.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Lewis; Thomas, Fisher, Gale; Worley, Blair, James, Holmes, Hyde.

Referee: A T Jones (Woking).

Dulwich were slow to settle down on the greasy surface and nearly conceded a quick goal from a faulty back pass. Beerling just beat Holmes to the ball.

The pattern-weaving Wycombe forwards were playing pretty football with Holmes and Worley very prominent in neat passing movements which split the Dulwich defence.

A classic Blair-Holmes move beat the defence, and James drew the goalkeeper cleverly before shooting against the foot of the post from a sharp angle.

MENACE OF JAMES

The roaming James was a real menace to Hamlet, particularly as the strong Wycombe half backs, Thomas and Gale, were sending passes into the home penalty area.

Hamlet bundled the ball into the net from Hammond's free kick but Manze had fouled Brown and the score was disallowed.

Wycombe were steady under pressure but Beck had to make one acrobatic save with his defence in real trouble. The Hamlet defence, however, was in a great tangle a few minutes later.

Holmes' low cross completely beat the goalkeeper and Hammond kicked the ball off the goal-line with Blair charging in.

HAMLET PRESSURE

As the young Hamlet forwards began to take the initiative Wanderers were hard pressed to keep their goal intact.

PETER JAMES skipped for joy after 30 minutes when he shot a great goal following a right-wing move in which Beck and Blair shared.

This was very much James's day. Never afraid to shoot, he was the most dangerous marksman on both sides.

A surprising penalty award earned Dulwich a 42-minute equaliser. Even the home players were puzzled, as the referee first awarded a corner kick and then, after consulting a linesman, pointed to the spot, presumably for hands.

MERRITT easily scored with the kick.

Half-time: Dulwich Hamlet 1, Wycombe Wanderers 1.

Clever Wycombe soccer had to pay dividends. **JAMES** headed a magnificent goal from Blair's centre.

Supremely confident, Wanderers were displaying their best football of the season.

But they were out of luck. With 67 minutes gone Beck turned a flying centre from Sumpter into his own goal. This was only Hamlet's second raid of the half.

It was no surprise when **JAMES** ran on to Blair's through pass to shoot Wycombe back into the lead with nine minutes to go—his hat-trick goal.

RESULT:

DULWICH HAMLET 2
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 3

JAMES JOLTS DULWICH

Dulwich H. 2 Wycombe W. 3

A BRILLIANT hat-trick by Peter James was the chief factor in Wycombe's decisive Isthmian League win over Dulwich at Champion Hill.

Wycombe, always the better-balanced side, took the lead in the 30th minute when, following good play by Len Worley, James scored with an unstoppable shot from 25 yards.

Dulwich equalised four minutes before the interval, Merritt scoring from a penalty following a handling offence.

James regained the lead for the Wanderers early in the second half, but once more Dulwich drew level when Beck put through his own goal when attempting to clear.

But the thrust of James gave Wycombe victory nine minutes from the end when he completed his hat-trick.